

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00244 281539Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO, DA

SUBJECT: BREAK-UP OF CDS PARTY CONGRESS

REF: LISBON 442

1. STRAIGHT DANISH NEWS COVERAGE OF THE BREAK-UP OF THE CDS CONGRESS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE AND BASED ON WIRE SERVICE (AP AND AFP) REPORTS. SEVERAL LEADING DAILIES FOLLOWED UP THESE REPORTS WITH EDITORIALS. ON JAN 27 DENMARK'S MOST RESPECTED DAILY, THE MODERATE INDEPENDENT BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, RAN A LONG, FRONT-PAGE STORY EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE PRECARIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF A CIVIL WAR. (TODAY'S MEDIA WIDELY REPORTED SIMILAR WARNINGS OF CIVIL WAR AS WELL AS FOREIGN INTERVENTION, EXPULSION FROM NATO, ETC., MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES.)

2. SEVERAL CENTER AND RIGHT DANISH PAPERS VIEWED THE CDS AS PORTUGAL'S MODERATE FORCE AND GUARANTOR OF DEMOCRACY. THE CDS WAS VIEWED AS UNDER ATTACK BY THE EXTREME LEFT, PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNISTS, WHO FEAR LACK OF POPULAR SUPPORT NECESSARY TO INSURE AN ELECTION VICTORY. THE COPENHAGEN LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL DAILY, INFORMATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDITORIALIZED JAN 27 THAT THE COMPETING DEMONSTRATIONS

SCHEDULED BY BOTH THE CDS AND THE COMMUNISTS FOR JAN 31
WILL FORCE THE MFA TO "CLARIFY" THE POSITION OF THE
MILITARY.

3. ALTHOUGH CARRYING STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE BREAK-
UP, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' DAILY AKTUELT HAS REMAINED
CURIOUSLY SILENT EDITORIALY.
DUNNIGAN

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